



Mary Draper-Smith

November 12, 1952 - November 22, 2023

Mary Ellen Draper-Smith, a remarkable woman filled with strength, compassion, and an entrepreneurial spirit, peacefully passed away on November 22, 2023, while in the care of Brookwood Citizen's Baptist Medical Center in Talladega, Alabama. Born on November 12, 1952, in Talladega, Mary was the eighth of seventeen children of the late Lune D. Draper, Jr. and Annie Louise Draper.

At a young age, Mary accepted Christ while attending Wesley Chapel AME Zion church. She later continued serving God when she became a Member of Mt. Zebulon AFM Church of God. While she primarily attended Talladega County Training School, she received her high school diploma from Spingarn High School in Washington, DC.

Mary's determination and ambition led her to various successful endeavors throughout her life. She began her career as an insurance agent, working diligently for Levy & Associates, Geico, and Woodmen of the World. Later, she became a nurturing provider as a daycare owner and operator of Happy Child Daycare, creating a bright space for children to grow and learn. Her compassionate heart extended beyond borders, as she dedicated her time as a missionary in Guatemala, positively impacting the lives of countless individuals. In addition, Mary also served as a dedicated US Postal Worker

and a successful second-hand arbitrage seller, always finding opportunities to turn discarded items into cherished treasures.

Mary maintained her sobriety since May 13, 1996. Her extraordinary zest for life matched her infectious smile and laughter. Mary indulged in thrilling activities, ziplining across the water in Florida, jumping on trampolines with her great-grandchildren, and climbing rock walls for fun. An avid reader, she had hundreds of scriptures memorized. Mary had a penchant for coffee with two creams and eight sugars, and she relished salads with blue cheese dressing. She was also proficient in completing tax returns for numerous family members and taught herself to install flooring, tile, and molding. Notably, she undertook a 40-day water fast in 1981. Mary's love for Hallmark and Lifetime movies, especially Christmas films, kept her engaged for hours. She also amassed collections of merry-go-rounds, books, and thimbles. In the 1980s, she excelled in a winning bowling league.

Above all, Mary cherished her role as a loving mother, raising her children, Jessica, Desmond, and Felicia, with immeasurable strength and unconditional love. Her legacy lives on through her children, who will forever carry their mother's spirit in their hearts.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents, Lune and Annie Louise Draper, and her five siblings, Clyde Morgan, Norman Draper, Marshall Draper, Garnette Draper, and Arthur Parker. She was also reunited in heaven with her beloved husband of 20 years, Eugene Smith.

Mary's memory will be cherished by her loving children, Jessica (Eddie) Williams of Maryland, Desmond (Amanda) Bailey of Pennsylvania, and her devoted daughter Felicia (Wendell) Hall of Alpine, Alabama. Her legacy lives on through her cherished grandchildren: Danielle Reynolds, Jessica Michelle

Washington, Jireh Swain, Wendarius Hall, and Kendell Hall. Mary's great-grandchildren, Daniel Reynolds, Dylan Reynolds, Alexandria Reynolds, Demetrius Reynolds, Marcus Washington, Myles Washington, Bella Grace Bailey, and Jasmine Bailey will forever be inspired by her remarkable life.

She will be deeply missed by her nine sisters, Norma Gooden, Jeraldine (Gilbert) Reynolds, Gustina Hill, Edna (Walter) Poe, Marvaline Draper, Jacqueline (Vernard) Garrett, Teresa (Ricky) Allen, Sandra Swain, and Wanda (Michael) Nuckles, as well as her three brothers, Robert (Vickie) Draper, Victor (Christy) Draper, and Andra Draper; bonus sons, Martin Blake and Eugene Atwater of Washington DC; sister-in-law, Shirley Smith of Washington DC; and a host of nieces and nephews who will forever hold Mary close to their hearts.

Mary's warm smile and caring nature touched the lives of many, and she forged lifelong friendships along the way. She shared a special bond with the Nuckles family, alongside cherished friends, Lillian Jackson, Betty Bracy, Janet May, and Sherry White.

Mary Draper-Smith was a beacon of strength, love, and resilience. Her memory will forever be etched in our hearts, and her spirit will continue to guide and inspire us. May she rest in eternal peace.

Cemetery Details

Draper Memorial Gardens

Lune Lane
Talladega, AL 35160

Previous Events

Public Viewing

DEC 1. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home Chapel
217 Coosa St. East
Talladega, AL 35160

Celebration of Life

DEC 2. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home Chapel
217 Coosa St. East
Talladega, AL 35160

Tribute Wall

PL

“ We met a long time ago, and you allowed me to share someone that I love very much -- Jessica. I've got her for you now. You can rest.

Pamela Lyons - December 02, 2023 at 09:10 AM

DS

“ To the Family of the Late Mary Draper Smith

Dear Desmond Jr & Family

I wish to express my sincere heartfelt sympathy to you and the family in the loss of your Dear Mother.

Today you may be feeling a since of loss and sorrow, but it is my prayer that you will continue to look to God for the strength you need to carry youu through today and the days to come. May you be comforted by memories of the times you shared with your mother, continue to focus on God's love and allow Him yo fill the void and heal your pain and sorrow. With Heartfelt Sympathy and Love .

Desmond Sr./AKA Roy

Desmond Bailey Sr. - November 30, 2023 at 04:30 PM

ST

To the sisters, brothers, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, our heartfelt sympathy to all of you. Mary was family to us and we loved her as our sister in love never law. Cherish the memories of your loved one and remember how much she loved all of you.

We pray for your hearts to be healed. A broken heart takes time to heal, but remember our God can do all things.

To the family we love you all dearly 🥰.

The Reynolds clan, Rogers, James (JW), Gilbert, Shirley, and S. Earl.

Shirley Pearl Reynolds Thompson - December 01, 2023 at 06:30 AM

FS

“ Fannie Stockdale lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith



Fannie stockdale - November 30, 2023 at 12:56 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Draper-Smith.



November 30, 2023 at 12:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Draper-Smith.

November 30, 2023 at 12:29 PM

VD

“ Von Dickerson lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith



Von Dickerson - November 30, 2023 at 10:26 AM

FS

“ From Michelle & Spankey purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Draper-Smith.



From Michelle & Spankey - November 30, 2023 at 08:42 AM

WC

“ Walter Cross lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith



walter cross - November 29, 2023 at 01:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Draper-Smith.



November 29, 2023 at 12:25 PM

AF

“ Aunt Bertha and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Draper-Smith.

Aunt Bertha and Family - November 29, 2023 at 12:25 PM

CW

“ Cynthia Dates Westbrook lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith



Cynthia Dates Westbrook - November 29, 2023 at 11:35 AM

LV

“ Linda Murphree Vaughan lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith



Linda Murphree Vaughan - November 29, 2023 at 09:58 AM

JH

“ Jackie Williams Hall lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith



Jackie Williams Hall - November 29, 2023 at 12:29 AM

JH

Prayers for the family!!! 🙏❤️😭🌹

Jackie Williams Hall - November 29, 2023 at 12:30 AM

HM

“ Condolences to the families of Mary Draper Smith. May the love and grace of God protect and comfort you.



Helen Millender - November 28, 2023 at 09:35 PM

JM

“ Thinking of your family as you celebrate Mary's beautiful life. Sending healing prayers that your memories of Mary will help you through this difficult time.

Jeronica Beavers McGhee - November 28, 2023 at 04:51 PM

RK

“ Roman & Paulette King lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith



Roman & Paulette King - November 28, 2023 at 03:56 PM

PK

“ Paulette & Roman King lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith



Paulette & Roman King - November 28, 2023 at 03:51 PM

LB

“ *May the God of all grace and mercy comfort, sustain, give you peace. Mary and I were best friends throughout our school years at T.C.T. S. We both were in the clarinet section of the school’s band. May the Lord bless all those who mourn with His abundant comfort and great grace.*

God’s Love and Mercy Endures Forever and His Promise of Eternal Life is True ❤️

Linda Beavers - November 28, 2023 at 01:41 PM

LB

“ *Linda Beavers lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith*



Linda Beavers - November 28, 2023 at 01:27 PM

PD

“ *Patricia Dye lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith*



Patricia Dye - November 27, 2023 at 10:28 AM

MM

“ Gonna miss you as being my best Doctor, what you told me to do for sleepiness really did work. Mary will be and already has been missed. My condolences to her children and the family. God keep you all is my prayer with love



Minister Zee Moore - November 27, 2023 at 09:57 AM

AH

“ Alonzo & Shernevelyne Draper Hill lit a candle in memory of Mary Draper-Smith



Alonzo & Shernevelyne Draper Hill - November 25, 2023 at 04:28 PM

FS

Condolences to the family the Stockdale 's

Fannie stockdale - November 30, 2023 at 12:55 PM